Ergonomic design sets the GY-HD250 apart from its competitors in the $5,000 to $14,000 range. Ten-pound camcorder (with a viewfinder, lens, microphone, battery, and tape) rests comfortably on your shoulder. Genlock accepts tri-level sync or black burst with controls to adjust phase (horizontal or subcarrier). Internal timecode generator locks to external sources. Uses interchangeable lenses designed for 1/3-inch CCDs. Optional studio kit (multicore adapter, camera control unit, and studio viewfinder) available. Can record 720p HDV at 60 fps.

Editing 720p60 HDV not currently supported by Apple or Avid. If you record in this format you'll need to uncompress and capture via HD-SDI output. The built-in neutral density filters labeled 1 (ND 0.6) and 2 (ND 0.12) do not offer enough light reduction to shoot day exteriors at stops below f/5.6. No -dB gain setting. White shading not automatic; the camera doesn't have standard manual controls, instead using a third approach--RGB controls. Paint controls, offering a limited range of adjustment, earn a Òjust adequateÓ rating (with the exception of the saturation control). Operator's manual confusing. The 1080i output cannot be recorded in camera. Focus assist feature of minimal help.

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